



Custer County

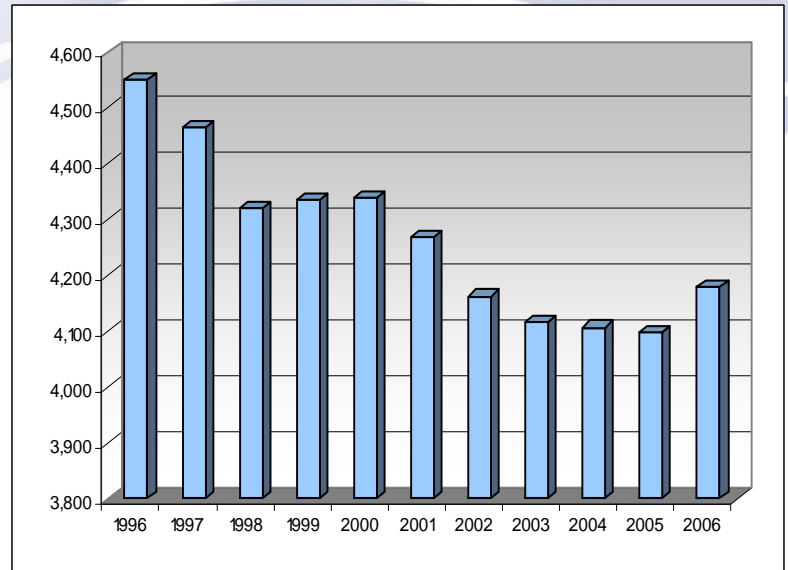
October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

Custer County ranks 39th in the state with a 2005 population of 4,077, averaging less than one person per square mile. The county reflects the fortunes of the mining industry. Population peaked in 1996, but since then Hecla Mining closed and Thompson Creek Mining, still considered one of the largest employers, started phasing out its operation several years ago. The county saw its population fall 475 from the peak.

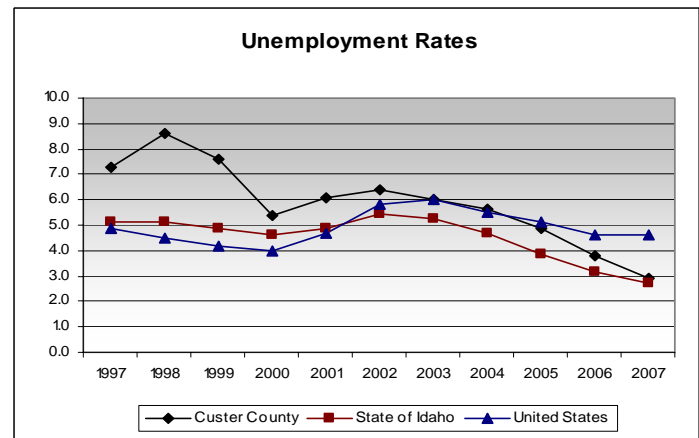
The county has been concentrating on economic development to diversify away from its dependence on mining. Economic developers are working hand-in-hand with government officials to attract new business and help existing ones expand to reverse, or at least slow, future decline.



Labor Force & Employment

Custer County recorded a higher unemployment rate than either the state or nation throughout the decade until beginning to track the national rate the past three years. The civilian labor force steadily decreased from 1995 to 1999 before picking up 700 workers during 2000 and 2001. The labor force dropped over 400 in 2002 but has been recovering since then. From 2002 to 2005, the labor force increased 340. Civilian labor force is a count of people at least 16 years old who are working or seeking work and neither institutionalized nor in the military. The unemployment rate is the lowest it's been for the whole decade. The county has been affected by forest fires, the national terror attacks and mine closures throughout the decade.

As shown on the pie chart, the county is divided by industrial categories. Government and other services

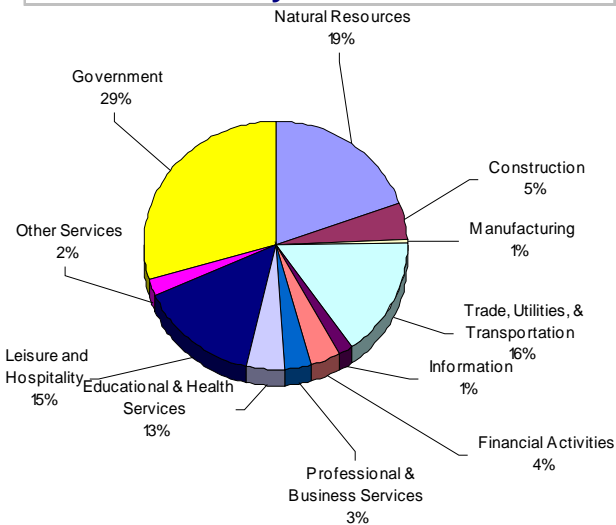


provide almost half the jobs. With only 5 percent of the land in private ownership, the state Department of Fish & Game and the federal departments of Interior and Agriculture maintain cadres of employees to maintain the land. They complement employees of school districts and local government. Trade is still a large industry, and Three Rivers Stone Corp. is a major player in wholesale trade. Tourism is significant, adding leisure and hospitality jobs. Such locations as Redfish Lake, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Borah Peak, the highest point in Idaho, are popular tourist attractions.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	2,378	2,365
Total Employment	2,301	2,234
Unemployed	77	132
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	5.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	2,133	2,129	2,003	2,617	2,692	2,555	2,526	2,566	2,580	2,512	2,528
Unemployment	156	184	153	142	163	163	152	145	125	96	74
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	8.6	7.6	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.0	5.6	4.8	3.8	2.9
Employment	1,977	1,945	1,850	2,475	2,529	2,392	2,374	2,421	2,455	2,417	2,454

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Major Employers

Challis & Mackay Jnt School Dist #181 & #182
Custer County
Idaho & U.S. Government (BLM, F&G, Ag)
Personal Home Care Inc
Thompson Creek Mining Co
Three Rivers Stone Corp
Village Square

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Agricultural Workers	\$8.47
Cashiers	\$7.79
Crushing, Grinding, Polishing Mach. Setters, Operators & Tenders	\$13.10
Extraction Workers	\$19.33
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$6.59
Industrial Truck/Tractor Operators	\$11.32
Laborers & Material Movers, Hand	\$8.45
Lodging Managers	\$15.72
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	\$7.06
Retail Sales Workers	\$9.52

Covered Employment & Wages

Covered employment includes employers who are subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.

Covered employment has grown by 135 jobs over the decade. During the same time, covered wages have increased \$5,129 a year. The county's per capita income is just under the state's average with mining

* Wage data includes 15 counties of Eastern Idaho. Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Commerce Web site at imi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	1,610	\$21,935	1,611	\$32,755	1,641	\$34,009
Agriculture	22	\$16,891	44	\$21,349	41	\$23,021
Mining	358	\$40,553	268	\$84,082	321	\$77,835
Construction	21	\$19,635	68	\$20,477	79	\$26,360
Manufacturing	10	\$13,294	6	\$24,609	9	\$24,603
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	278	\$15,078	247	\$18,868	257	\$20,499
Information	21	\$22,929	22	\$44,651	25	\$43,042
Financial Activities	50	\$13,793	58	\$14,653	56	\$16,732
Professional and Business Services	23	\$17,827	57	\$21,734	57	\$23,933
Educational and Health Services	51	\$12,149	103	\$11,744	78	\$14,037
Leisure and Hospitality	309	\$10,657	211	\$14,460	242	\$14,293
Other Services	11	\$22,850	21	\$29,681	21	\$30,096
Government	459	\$21,364	506	\$30,634	456	\$30,991

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Custer County	\$20,495	\$22,391	\$20,834	\$22,643	\$23,591	\$22,163	\$22,782	\$23,456	\$24,875	\$26,381
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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